

THE Gateway

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Vocal boys
make good.
See page 5

Rebels to face critical point in Afghan War

By POLIDOROS C. PSERROS

A pivotal point in the Afghanistan war is rapidly approaching, according to some observers.

"In the next six months, we're hoping for a reversal," said Andrew Eiva, the executive director of the Federation of American Afghan Action. The lobbying group helped get \$280 million in U.S. military aid to the resistance.

Eiva said the Afghan freedom fighters (mujahadeen) are developing the capacity to damage Soviet supply lines and seriously impede the Soviet Union's ability to fight the war.

Conversely, Soviet saturation bombing has destroyed villages, livestock and crops. Afghanistan is "in danger of a famine," said Zabihullah Mojadedi, the director of the political committee of the Islamic Unity of Afghanistan Mujahadeen, the largest group of freedom fighters.

'Country without people'

In the five years of fighting since Soviet troops crossed the border on Christmas day, 1979, 1.5 million Afghans have been killed, Mojadedi said. According to 1983 United Nations reports, 1.5 million Afghan refugees have fled to Iran; another 4 million are in Pakistan, and an estimated 2 million are homeless within the country. Almost half the population has been displaced.

Mojadedi, whose organization accounts for 45 percent of the armed 250,000 mujahadeen, believes there may not be any people left to defend. "We'll have a country without people," he said.

Mojadedi and Eiva were joined in a visit to the United States by two mujahadeen commanders, Mohammed Badal and Nazar Khan, and a child — another victim of the war — Mohammad Nasim, 7, who lost three brothers and three sisters during a Soviet bombing raid of his village last spring. During the raid he suffered a hip wound and lost four fingers on his left hand.

Omaha is the second stop in a nine-city tour for the group, which spent Tuesday morning at a press conference at UNO.

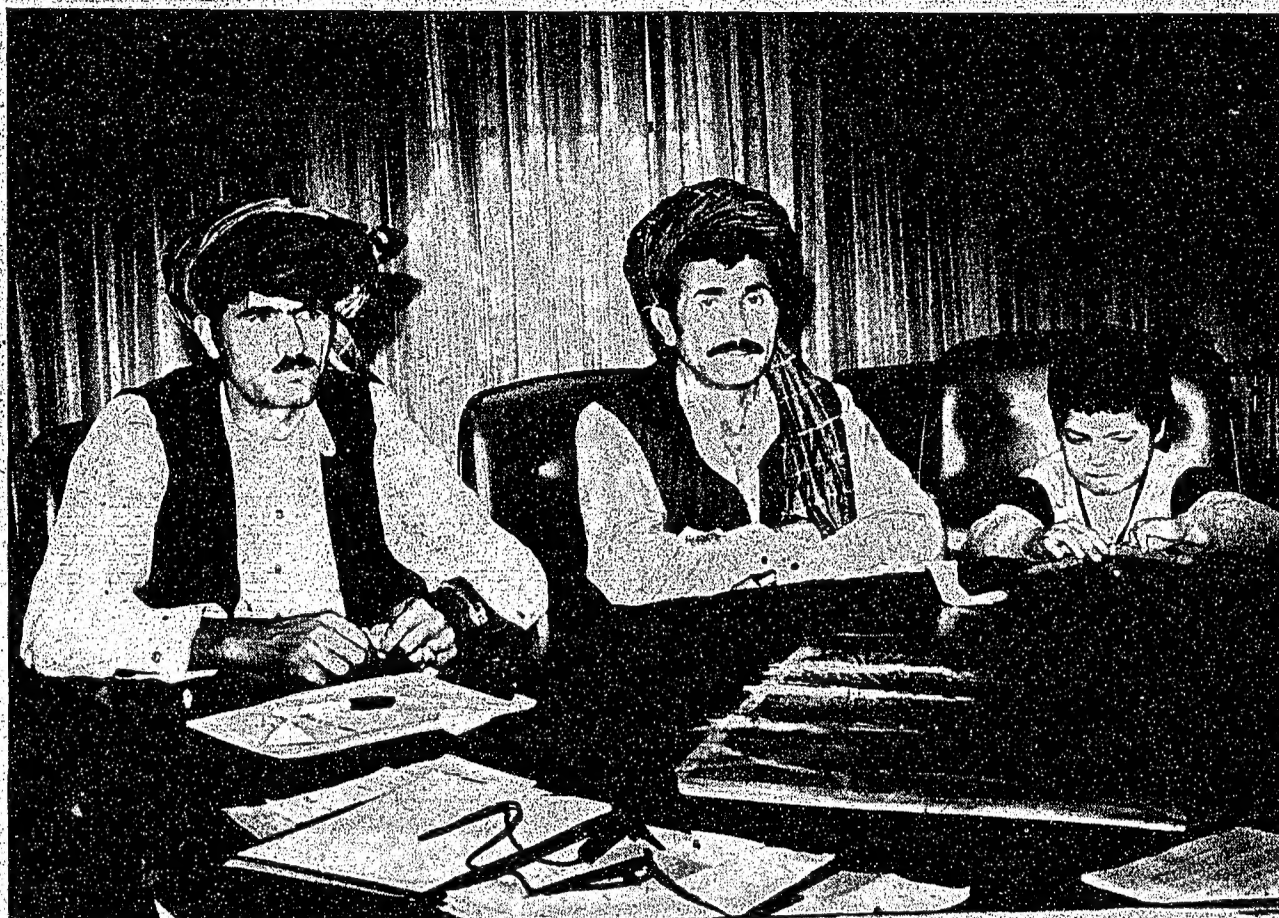
Mismanagement

Mojadedi said the purpose of visiting the United States is twofold. "One is to try to win more effective support for Afghanistan," he said. "The second part is to get the American public informed of our resistance." Mojadedi said he believes that would result in a more positive response from Congress.

In the past two years, the United States has granted the Afghan resistance movement \$342 million in covert military aid, Eiva said. This aid, channeled through the Central Intelligence Agency, resulted in a market value of \$102 million to the mujahadeen, according to Eiva.

Eiva said the loss of funds may be the product of CIA overhead, arms merchants' sweetheart deals and payoffs, and siphoning by Pakistanis.

There are other examples of mismanagement, said Eiva. The resistance was issued a kind of surface-to-air missile (SAM 7) that had a 100-percent failure rate in Angola's covert war. In Afghanistan, it had only occasional success. The ammunition for



Ed Babic

Afghan future . . . Mujahadeen commanders Nazar Khan, left, and Mohammed Badal appear to be contemplating an uncertain destiny. Mohammad Nasim is busy with magic markers.

the mujahadeen's heavy machine gun cost \$22 million but 85 percent was not armor-piercing. Most of the ammunition was useless against tanks and gunships.

"These are symptoms — this is not a disease of what is, in effect, a no-win policy that many government officials still believe that the Afghan war is unwinnable," Eiva said.

Capabilities

The mujahadeen with the proper equipment can cut both land and air supply routes from the Soviet Union through Afghanistan. The northern road is passable 50 to 90 percent of the time and the southern road 90 to 100 percent of the time if the resistance maintains its existing capabilities. But if the Afghans gain the modern equipment that they're expecting, both routes are passable, Eiva said.

With the proper mortars, the 35 airfields in Afghanistan used by the Soviets can be shelled by night and 60 percent can be shelled during the day, he added.

"This leads to the possibility of a gradual Dien Bien Phu," Eiva said. The Vietnamese victory in 1954 over the French can be duplicated by the Afghans by similarly encircling and defeating the Soviets, he said.

An Afghan victory would be in the interest of U.S. foreign policy, Eiva said. He said it would enhance the United States' negotiating posture. The Soviets have shown greater willingness to negotiate when humiliated or pressed, he added. Eiva cited

the Soviets' move to sign the Test N-Ban Treaty after the 1961 Cuban Missile Crisis and the recent Soviet reaction to President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" speech as examples.

Complete capitulation by the Afghans would give the Soviets airfields within fighter-bomber range of the Straits of Hormuz and the Middle East's major oil fields, Eiva said. He also said that the United States has a moral reason to support "an entire nation that is pitted against an overwhelming superpower."

A global problem

"There is no way we can lose this war," Mojadedi said. The Afghans will ultimately prevail, he added. However, he said the Soviets have introduced a tactic that is at least as old as the Greek Civil War in the late 1940s by taking children against their will into the Soviet Union to be reeducated in the communistic way of life.

"This is one of the dangers," Mojadedi said. "There has been thousands of children taken to the Soviet Union, and keeping them for four or five years." This was done at the start of the war, he added, and in the last year, 7,000 to 8,000 may have returned.

Eiva said he believes that if the policy of taking the children is successful, and the population declines through either war or famine, the Soviets may be able to annex Afghanistan and make it another Soviet Socialist Republic.

"Then it becomes a global problem," Eiva said.

Afghanistan war enlists unlikely freedom fighters

By POLIDOROS C. PSERROS

Two tape recorders hissed and the grownups talked about war, but Mohammad Nasim, 7, pushed the magic markers aside and began concentrating on the sheet of paper. Lifting his left hand with just the one little finger, he put it on the paper and pinned it to the table. He then made the fold with his right hand and pinned that fold with the same little finger.

He repeated the process until the paper was folded to his satisfaction. He then folded another sheet in the same, careful way.

When one of the grownups spoke to him, he jumped at the sound of his name.

It isn't clear how the question was phrased to the child because it was made from one Afghan to another, but the reply by the seven-year-old, was translated as "early last spring." Mohammad went back to his paper and the grownups went back to talking about war.

Early last spring, a Soviet bombing raid killed three of Mohammad's brothers and three of his sisters. As a result of the raid, he lost four fingers from his left hand. He also had a hip wound.

Four Afghans — the child, a farmer, a merchant to the child because it was made from one Afghan to another, but the reply by the 7-year-old was translated as "early last spring." Mo-

hammad went back to his paper and the grownups went back to talking about war.

"I'm an engineer," Zabihullah Mojadedi said. "I'm professor." When the war is over he said he hopes to return to Saudi Arabia's Faizal University. "They're holding my position for me," he said. "I do go there once a year for a month or so."

Mojadedi, the director of the political com-

Please don't let us
die slowly.
Nazar Khan

mittee of the Islamic Unity of Afghanistan Mujahadeen (IUAM), came to the United States on a Fulbright scholarship in 1968. He later earned a doctorate in engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

The IUAM is an alliance of three major resistance forces that comprise 45 percent of the estimated 250,000 armed mujahadeen. Mojadedi is responsible for smoothing over any of the alliance's internal or external conflicts. His father, Sibghatullah, is president of the IUAM political committee.

Mojadedi's background and his excellent English made him a good choice to be spokesman for the group the Afghan Studies Director

Thomas Gouttierre said. He has served as the group's translator.

Mojadedi, 38, said he joined the resistance in 1978, following the Soviet-inspired coup of Nur Muhammad Taraki. Another who joined the resistance at approximately that time was a farmer of 25 acres, Mohammed Badal, 37, from northern Afghanistan.

Now a commander of his home area, his force numbers 2,000, of which 300 are full-time fighters. Two Russian Ukrainians who deserted from the Soviet Army have joined him. Badal lost 17 mujahadeen in firefight with the Soviets before arriving in this country.

Badal is proud of his force. "Most of my people are less than 10 percent illiterate," he said. "They have mastered every type of weapon."

Badal said he has made several sneak attacks across the Soviet border since the open hostilities began. His troops have crossed the Farya-ye Pan river. He used inflatable rafts made of goatskins to cross and he's captured several prisoners.

Mojadedi believes the raids on Soviet soil are essential. "That's war psychology," he said. "You have to do that."

Badal has planted rice, wheat, and cotton crops on his land but has had no luck lately. During the day the elders work the fields, and

at night mujahadeens have worked the soil, but he can never get any crops.

"When it's time to cultivate," he said, "they (the Soviets) come to destroy it."

Nazar Khan said he joined the resistance shortly after the Taraki coup of 1978. At the time, those who were willing to join the resistance hung white flags. This practice often encouraged others to join.

Khan, who does not know his age but believes he's in his 40s, owned three trucks and ran his own freight line but his resistance activities got to the point that the government confiscated his trucks.

He leads a force of 1,100 men of which 100 are full-time fighters. He said his force in southeast Afghanistan is composed of all types of people: teachers, students, villagers, and farmers.

After the nine-city tour of the United States, Mohammad Nasim will join his parents and three brothers in a Pakistani refugee camp. Mojadedi will return to the IUAM staff in Pakistan. Badal and Khan will return to their soldiers.

Khan, who lost a leg in combat four years ago, hopes for American aid. "Please don't let us die slowly," he said. Adds Mojadedi, "We'll win this struggle or die."

Comment

Moral mandates

Last month the State Liquor Control Commission approved a regulation banning multiple-drink promotions, or "two-fers." In a Dec. 18 World-Herald article ("Liquor Board Bans 'Two-fers' in Nebraska Bars"), commissioner Bill Palmer was quoted as saying, "This will return the responsibility to the individual (liquor consumer). He has to make a conscious decision for each drink."

Monday, State Sen. Vard Johnson of Omaha introduced Legislative Bill 141, which would hold bar-owners mutually liable (along with their intoxicated customers) for any injuries or damages caused by said customers after leaving the bar.

Johnson's bill would also require bars to have equipment, such as Breathalyzers, to measure a customer's blood-alcohol content.

The commission's regulation and Sen. Johnson's bill coincide with a nationwide concern about alcohol use and its sometimes detrimental consequences.

But the commission's two-fer ban and Johnson's proposed bill are both Band-Aid remedies in that they attack the symptom rather than the cause.

The two-fer ban does not allow a consumer to make a more responsible decision; it merely regulates away the temptation so consumers will not be forced to choose between a responsible or irresponsible decision.

LB141 ensures there will be two victims of irresponsible alcohol consumption: those a drunk injures, and the bar-owner from whom he or she bought the alcohol.

While bar owners may be morally compelled to say "No" to an over-indulgent patron, they do not force one to drink.

Until irresponsible consumer attitudes toward drinking are changed, attempts to legislate responsibility will fail.

JOHN MALNACK II

Editor's note: The Jan. 16 Gateway editorial "Renaissance of pride" incorrectly stated that UNO freshmen average 26-years-old. The average UNO Student is 26-years-old.



Hackish musings

By Kevin Cole

Verbosity rewarded

Sooner or later, it's bound to happen. Those of us with a particularly loquacious bent are asked to put our verbosity to use.

I don't know if it's because editors feel as long as we spend so much time spouting off, we might as well spew some verbiage in a constructive environ.

Working off that excess steam is sometimes done by becoming a spokesperson for the local Society for the Prevention of Football-Player Abuse or the chapter of the Surviving Veterans of the Industrial Revolution.

In this case, someone had the deranged notion that I should help fill this fine, young paper by pursuing a column. Tired of pursuing drink, women who never seem to tire of running, and an education, I agreed because I figured I had "something to say."

I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, "Kevin, how can I, too, become a person with 'something to say'?"

Well, that's easy. You start by being born into a large family. Then, sandwiched between four sisters whose combined tongue-speed eclipses the speed of light and a brother who could put the Federal Express commercial to shame, you build up years of motor-mouth envy.

My grandmother once consoled my suffering silence with the

aphorism: "It's better to keep your mouth shut and let everyone think you're stupid than to open it and prove it."

Once I learned this secret, I became hell-bent to open my mouth and prove her right. For a time, I spent every Sunday dinner trying to capture the family's attention by inventing outrageous tales of the near-fatal catastrophes I'd just managed to escape.

The family would sit in rapt attention and finally the spotlight was on me. However, after they discovered my stories were fabrications, they gave up hoping for the worst and returned to ignoring me.

At any rate, I decided to take a survey of the typical columnist to find out if they were products of the same sort of frustration. My finding is this: absolutely no one is as talkative as a newspaper columnist.

The main problem wasn't the fact that columnists give long-winded answers to all questions (though they do). It was more in the vein that each one was afraid I was out to steal some nugget of information from him and did their best to give nothing of use to me.

The political analyst was spooked that I might find out where the governor stands on budget cuts. The society columnist was certain I was after her list of who had to be seen doing what

to whom and the letter columnist for a smut magazine was suspicious that I only wanted the names and addresses of his perverted contributors.

I'm sure you'll believe me when I vow that two of the three had nothing to fear whatsoever. The third is an old prude who probably doesn't know how to pronounce half those Latin words, let alone what they are.

I was struck by their overwhelmingly protectionist attitudes. Also by the society gal's open palm.

Finally, it dawned on me. Later on, I was dusked on and twilighted, but first it dawned on me. After the initial relief of finally being able to dump their pent-up anecdotes, witticisms, postulations, theorems, notions, analogies, ruminations, insightful comments and musings into the public domain where they deserved to be obscured, columnists begin to fear having "nothing to say."

I wondered: Does a similar fate one day await me? Will I find myself running from vague acquaintance to virtual stranger seeking tidbits of gossip, office pranks and social commentary? An annoying nuisance whose hackish goal is to fill the world with the rehashings of events and stories long ago told more brilliantly and eloquently by other writers?

Probably, but then somebody's got to do it.



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Op Ed -

'Aspin the Reasonable' becomes 'leader of the pack'

By COLMAN MCCARTHY
WASHINGTON — Followers of military waste and Pentagon piggishness know that Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.) has opposed weapons that don't work and programs that don't deliver. He has kept to one standard: Examine the Department of Defense with the same economic skepticism that others bring to the waste and fraud in programs for the poor. Saving dimes and quarters on food-stamp abuse appeals to one kind of mind; saving real money — billions — on flawed missiles, planes and tanks has been Aspin's zeal.

As one of the few members of the House Armed Services Committee who hasn't equated patriotism with subservience to the Pentagon, Aspin has been labeled flamboyant and pushy. Critics have dismissed him as someone who goes off on his own from the pack. Now that he is the new chairman of the committee — the leader of the pack — an assessment of his skills needs to be made, one based less on his alleged flamboyance than his ideas and methods.

A useful focus on Aspin is the Subcommittee on Military Personnel and Compensation. He has been its chairman for the past two years.

From its modest platform — it isn't the subcommittee where headlines are made about \$436 hammers and \$7,000 coffeemakers — Aspin has been anything but the rebel. He has worked as the patient — but not endlessly patient — reformer.

An examination of one excess that has been before the subcommittee for the past two years — the military retirement system — shows Aspin as both fairminded and firm.

In recent years, the system has been called into question. Such observers as Charles Peters of The Washington Monthly has said that, "Military retirement policies are the most absurd of all the government's wasteful practices." The Pentagon's own recent Fifth Quadrennial Review of Military compensation has recommended changes.

The numbers alone suggest a military overrun of overruns. In 1964, military pensions cost \$1.2 billion, or 2½ percent of the military budget. In 1977, it had soared to \$8.4 billion, or 8½ percent. Now it's up to about \$18 billion. In addition to the money, the system is larded with fringe benefits. In 1977, almost no federal civil-service worker or privately employed person was eligible to receive a pension under age

50. All military personnel were. The purchasing power of a lifetime pension as a percentage of a lifetime salary for private workers was between 18 and 26 percent, 56 percent for civil servants and between 149 and 163 percent for the military. As the biggest leaf on the national money tree, military pensions were about seven times larger than private plans and three times civil service.

The lavishness of military pensions came before Aspin's subcommittee in April 1983. Instead of being adversarial with the Pentagon people at the hearing — a general and a civilian assistant secretary — Aspin spoke to them with reasonableness. The pensions are "costing too much money," he said, citing his own reliable research. To that, they replied, "We have been studying (the issue) for years."

That, said Aspin, is the problem. Studying is all that gets done: "There has never been a proposal put forth because the Pentagon can never get its act together on this issue. They discuss it for years and the thing is quietly killed."

One of the Pentagon men, finding Aspin The Reasonable even too much, defended military pensions by lobbing a smokebomb: Policemen,

firemen and others get more than retired soldiers. Aspin replied: "It is not good enough to say that because something else is worse that therefore this is OK." He ended up by saying that unless the military comes in with its own reforms, Congress will do it.

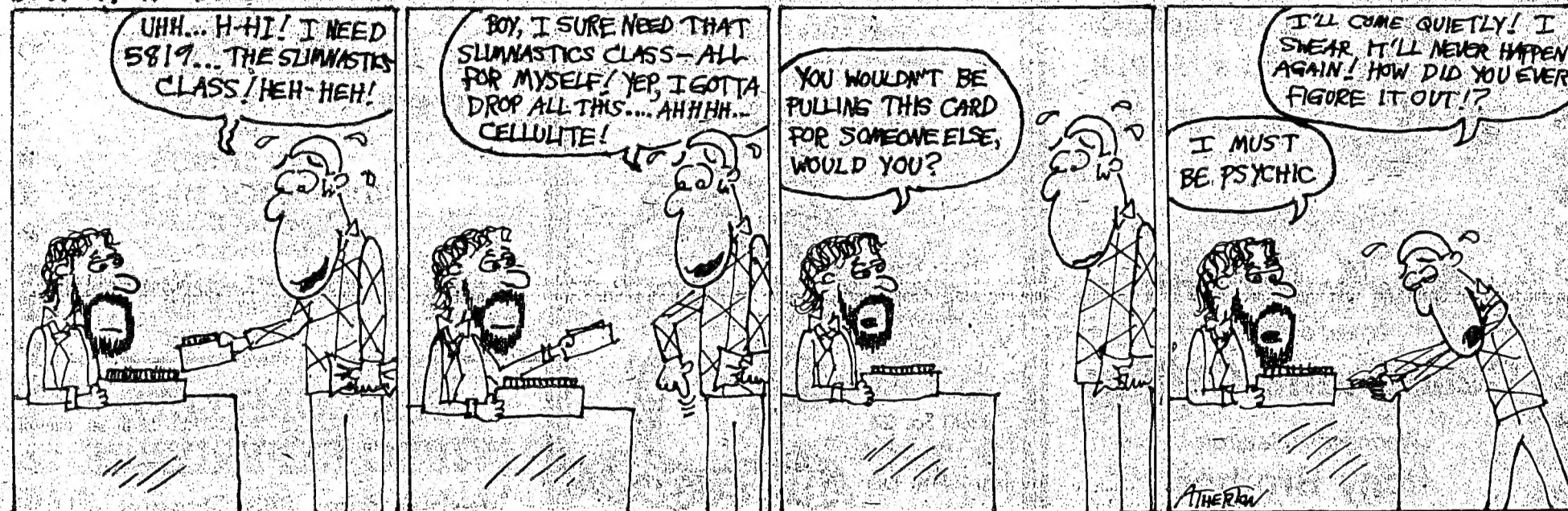
The message apparently was heard — to a point. Soon after staff people in the Pentagon came in with a study on ways to control future pension costs. But higher-ups rejected the staff work.

On Jan. 7, the Navy Times reported that "a final Defense Department position paper on ways to change the military retirement system, which was due in the White House by the end of December, has been shelved indefinitely." The Pentagon's argument is that retirement pay can't be looked at in isolation, especially when other questions — pay freezes, tax reforms — are still to be settled.

Aspin, who has a doctorate in economics and wrote a paper in 1977 titled "Guns or Pensions," has heard that before. But until now he hasn't heard it as chairman of the committee. The military rejected his power of reasonableness, which is a new reason to exert his power.

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Weekend wire . . .

Hot dates

Welcome back to a new semester and to *The Weekend Wire*. A lot has been going since the holiday break.

But the biggest holiday development in the local music scene was the release of a live, 10-song cassette from the Omaha group Oasis. "Oasis Live" features the live sound of a band that has long since established a loyal Omaha following with a refreshing style of their own.

The cassette features a good sampling of Oasis originals written by guitarist and keyboard player Kevin Swisher, as well as one cover, "Old Man," a traditional in the Oasis arrangement.

"It's a dream come true," Swisher remarked of the release of the cassette.

Recorded live at the Howard Street Tavern in October 1984, the cassette represents a giant step for a band that has had problems bringing their sound to a broader audience.

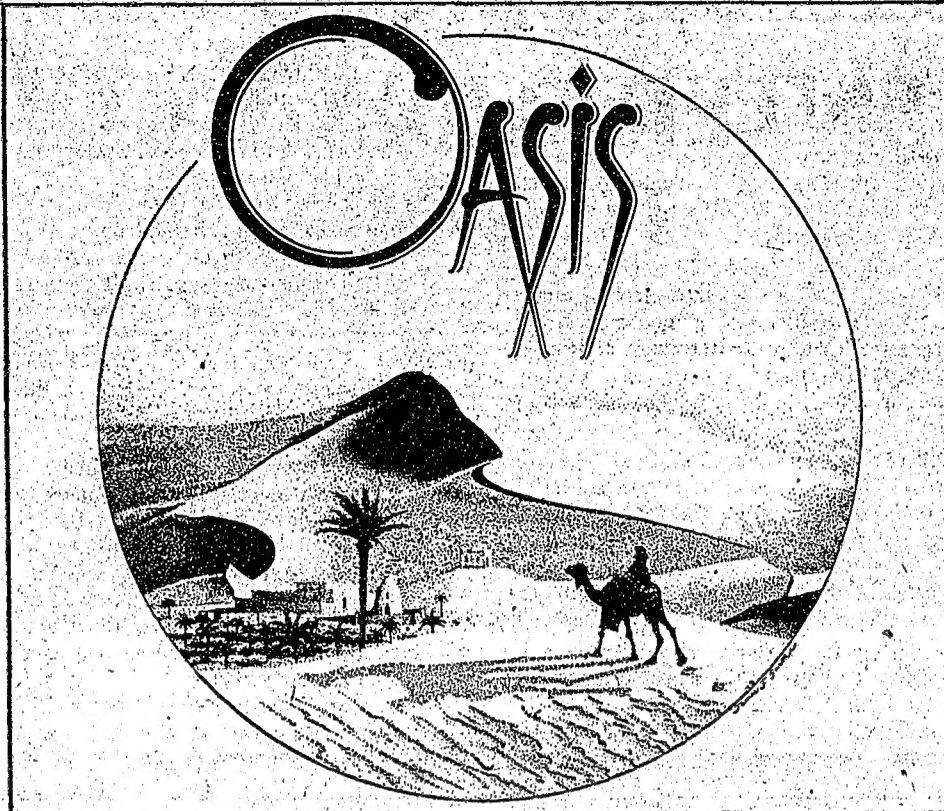
Oasis emerged in March, 1983, the result of the break up of the popular Risky Shift band. Riding the crest of Risky Shift, Oasis had tremendous early local success.

"We had a lot of gigs right off the bat from the reputation of Risky Shift," Swisher said, "three months straight bookings. It took the bar owners about a year-and-a-half to realize that the reputation and fun they had listening to us wasn't working out on their books."

In a town inundated with cover bands, Oasis' sound was too hip for the local audiences.

"People feel comfortable (with cover bands) because they're familiar with the music," said drummer Buck Weyerman. "It's like the radio being on in the bar."

Instead of resorting to the fast bucks of the cover circuit, Oasis decided to put out a well crafted live tape in an effort to hit a broader, younger audience right where it hurts; in their radio station.



"Basically the cassette is an Oasis project," Weyerman said. The band rented the equipment and hired Steve Ozaydin, a Sound Records employee, to master the recording. The resulting cassette is the best to emerge from local production, with the exception of the Fresh Aire recordings.

The songs are all hallmark Oasis tunes, featuring a decided reggae flavor backed by the

fluid bass lines of Ken Fallon, and the unmistakable signature guitar playing of Omaha veteran musician Dave Barger.

Rounding out the band are veteran session drummer Weyerman and percussionist Tim Swisher.

Side one of the cassette features another aspect of Oasis' style in the vocals and lyrics of Kevin Swisher. He combines a pleasing vocal

style with intelligent lyrics, evoking the human condition in songs like "Safe At Home" and "Life is Confusing." Following up are the reggae-inflected "Jamaica" and an Oasis dance standard "Let It Fall." Winding up the first side is the first of three instrumentals on the cassette, "Sunday Dance," which departs from a reggae style into a jazzier, fusion style.

Side two opens with "Voices Calling," highlighting searing guitar leads by Barger.

Barger takes the vocal spot for the Oasis arrangement of "Old Man." Swisher puts the keyboards to work for "War Hero," an Oasis classic. Fallon's bass melts over the next tune, "Snowbird," while percussionist Tim Swisher adds some crisp drum lines.

The cassette ends with an Oasis standard, "Camel Walk," featuring the light touch of Barger's guitar and a Santana-like percussion and guitar jaunt. A funky ending to a fine set of songs.

"Oasis Live" is a hearty slice of one of the areas few original bands. The only notable drawback is the exclusion of "Working Fool," possibly the most accessible of all the Oasis songs. Still, the sampling is adequate in all respects.

To catch Oasis live will be rather difficult in the next few weeks. Listen for replay of the tape on "Original Omaha," on radio station KOIL, Sunday evenings at 9:30. KOIL's Bill Matson said the tape will air in coming weeks. Meanwhile, the nearest dates for Oasis will be in February. Included is the "2nd Annual Winter Luau" at Howard Street Tavern Feb. 3. The all day event with catered food will feature Oasis, Risky Shift, Inferno Club, Back Beats, B and the Hot Notes, Jailbreakers, Big Thumbs and Natasha the belly dancer. "Oasis Live" cassettes are available at all Homer's outlets.

—KENNY WILLIAMS

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Review

Hot dancing redeems Coppola's weighty 'Cotton Club'

Francis Coppola's resurrection of "The Cotton Club" is one expensive miracle of a movie. At last count, \$50 million had been spent on the film. Although elegantly filmed and nicely cast, that amount is probably about \$25 million too much.

Still, Coppola has bounced back with somewhat of a victory after box-office deadbeats such as "Rumble Fish" and "The Outsiders." Moving away from the stark coldness of black and white, Coppola has created an elegant gangster film, which owes much to cinematographer Stephen Goldblatt and costume designer Milena Canonero.

"Cotton Club" has a lot going for it, namely, a mishmash of great actors and superb dancing. But it's weighted down by an over-abundance of plots. Keeping them all straight is easy enough, but you get the feeling that some of the characters aren't fully developed. Instead, you get a glossy picture that's been touched up to hide the flaws.

Coppola has taken the haunting soul of the jazz era and connected it with the steamy energy of the underworld. Using Harlem's most famous mobster hangout of the 20's and 30's, The Cotton Club, and furious dance numbers

featuring Gregory and Maurice Hines, Coppola takes a variety of subplots and melds them together like a former-day "Footloose."

In the middle of the mess are a couple of love stories, a power struggle, violent death, touching affection and dancing that will put "Breakin' 2, Electric Boogaloo" to shame.

The love stories involve Dixie Dwyer (Richard Gere), a naive cornet player who unwittingly gets involved with mob man Dutch Schultz (James Ramar). Gere falls for Dutch's girl Vera (Diane Lane), who would like to follow her heart but can't for fear of reprisals from Dutch.

Also in love is Sandman Williams (Gregory Hines) a black tap dancer who "makes it to the big time" with his brother Clay (Maurice Hines) when they score a gig at The Cotton Club. Sandman falls in love with Lila (Lonette McKee), a Cotton Club dancer who tries to pass herself off as a white girl in order to succeed.

Providing the violence and power struggle are a number of gangsters. The mobster-owned Cotton Club is headed up by Owney Madden (Bob Hoskins) who lurks through the shadows with his towering sidekick Big Frenchy De-

mange (Fred Gwynne.) When they're not keeping Dutch in line, they're dealing with small-time operators like Vinnie Dwyer (Nicolas Cage), who manages to run afoul of Owney with some very unpleasant results.

Fabulous dancing from the Hines brothers is backed by equally fabulous music from the big band era. Musical arrangements are reproduced by Bob Wilber who creates the sounds of greats like Duke Ellington (portrayed here by Zane Mark) and Cab Calloway (Larry Marshall). Older audiences will revel at the reincarnation of the jazz masters performing in the electric, smoky hubbub of the Cotton Club's dance floor.

The film is dotted with fine performances. Gere is not as prominent a character as the ads may have you believe, but his performance is beyond that of the beefcake roles in his past. Diane Lane plays a pretty good teenage gangster moll. The Hines brothers are magnificent both acting and dancing. Together they command the screen in dance sequences long since forgotten on the big screen.

Hoskins and Gwynne play off each other well. Gwynne, who was everybody's favorite Herman Munster, is a refreshing old face full of

clam and subdued fury. Remar plays his gangster tough guy to the hilt, perhaps too much. Larry Fishburne as a black gangster exposes a sinister new role for a black actor. And Charles (Honi) Coles is a wonder in a brilliant but not necessarily needed scene at the black Hooper's Club.

Still, the film is just too much, crammed into too little time. Three-and-a-half hours could have possibly filled out some of the characters we are inundated with. The formula is also too strong on violence, where rub-outs become an excuse for extended and graphic bloodshed.

Yet "The Cotton Club" is endearing in a number of ways. For once we see good performances by a group of black actors and veterans in a unique setting. Visually, Coppola is a meticulous wonder, apparently (judging by the budget) not skimping on even the slightest details in his effort to present the period. And one would have to harken back to the days of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rodgers for dancing this superb.

"The Cotton Club" is rated "R" for violence. It is playing at the Westroads 8, Cinema Center and Q-Cinema 6.

—KENNY WILLIAMS

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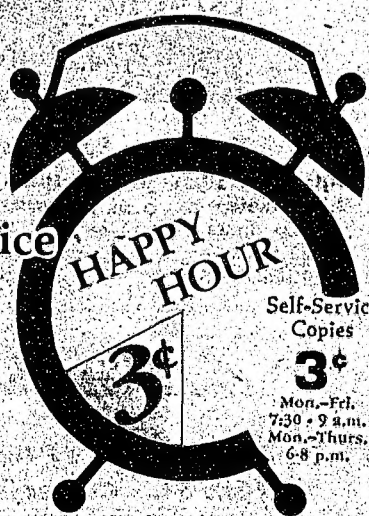
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Sports

Mavericks drop home match to Sun Devils

By MIKE JONES

UNO wrestlers took on one of the really big boys in college wrestling Monday night, Arizona State, and came out on the short end of a 39-15 loss.

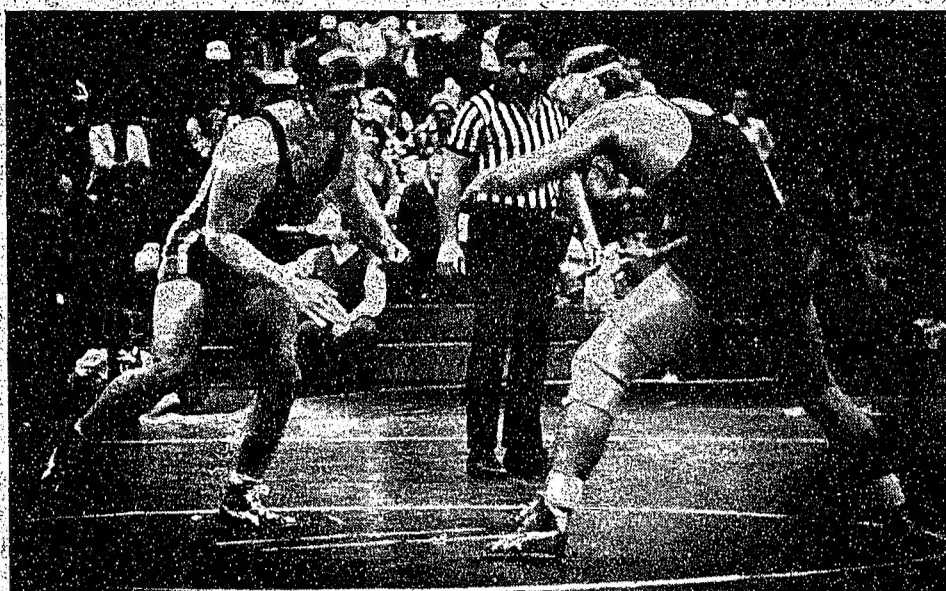
"You know if you schedule the good teams," Maverick Coach Mike Denney said, "and you can compete against them, it gives you confidence. You can say, 'Hey, I know I can compete with these guys,' even if you do lose."

The night started out with forfeits for both teams. UNO's 118-pound Mark Weston was out with a knee infection. Weston is ranked eighth in the nation at his weight class in Division II. Denney said that they should have Weston back quickly.

The match opened with the Mavs' Bill Colgate facing ASU's Gary Bairos. The Sun Devil junior dominated Colgate throughout the match, scoring a 23-9 technical fall. Under a new rule this season, a wrestler who falls behind by more than 14 points automatically loses.

Following Colgate's loss at 126, UNO was forced to forfeit at 134 and 142. UNO didn't have anyone available to wrestle the 134-pound class, and Shawn Knudsen was hurt at 142. Denney said Knudsen should be back by next week.

"At 134," Denney said, "we're going to be using Mike Fox." Denney said Fox wrestled for the team last season before sitting out the spring and fall semesters to concentrate on his



Watch me ... Mav Paul Jones eyes Arizona State's Tom Kolopus for a take down in Monday action.

engineering courses. Most UNO engineering classes are offered in the afternoon and conflict with scheduled practice hours.

With the score 24-6 for the Sun Devils, UNO's two-time all-American Mark Manning tangled with ASU's Eddie Urbano. Urbano had been ranked first nationally earlier this season.

Manning dominated Jim Gressley early and continued to maintain control until midway in the second period.

With Manning up 3-0, Urbano headlocked him and recorded the pin with less than 30 seconds in the period.

"Mark got caught," Denney said, "At that

level you really have to concentrate. The intensity is such that you really have to concentrate."

At 158, Curt Ramsey picked up the only UNO win of the evening by downing Gressley 14-9. Ramsey, a senior from Griswold, Iowa, scored late in the match with a takedown and nearfall to win.

At 167 pounds Jeff Randall was awarded a forfeit and UNO received its last points of the evening. ASU's two other rated wrestlers were up next, as well as their heavyweight, Tom Severin, whom Denney feels will be rated soon.

Paul Jones lost his match to Tom Kolopus, 10-2 at 177.

"Paul wrestled a guy who's ranked fourth in Division I," Denney said, "and he was pretty competitive. Paul didn't wrestle a great match, he'll be the first to admit that. He just didn't."

The final two matches pitted freshman R. J. Nebe and Tom Ewin against the Sun Devils. Denney felt that Nebe wrestled an outstanding match, losing by only one point. In the heavyweight match, Ewin lost 9-6, but not before scoring a moral victory of sorts. According to Denney, Ewin threw the ASU man to his back and might have pinned him, but Severin yelled about an injury and the match was stopped.

"You know, he wasn't perfect," Denney said, "but he really competed well. I decided to start him because he's been wrestling close with our other heavyweight in practice."

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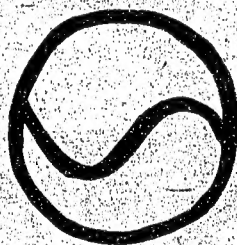
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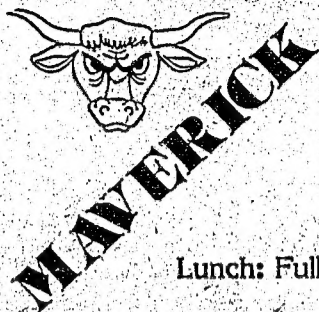
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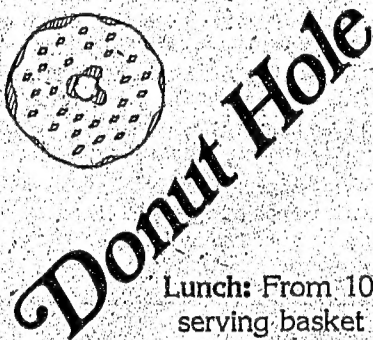


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